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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,513	09/30/2003	David L. O'Meara	243460US6YA	1655
22850	7590	01/10/2008	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				COLEMAN, WILLIAM D
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2823				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/10/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCE

MAILED

JAN - 9 2008

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte: DAVID L. O'MERA, DANIEL CRAIG BURDETT,
STEPHEN H. CABRAL, GERT LEUSINK,
JOHN WILLAIM KOSTENKO and CORY WAJDA

Application 10/673,513

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) on December 14, 2007. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the Examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

REPLY BRIEF

Appellant filed a Reply Brief on February 1, 2007 in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed December 1, 2006.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S ANSWER

On April 19, 2007, the examiner mailed a Supplemental Examiner's Answer in response to the Reply Brief February 1, 2007.

APPROVAL BY TECHNOLOGY CENTER DIRECTOR

The Supplemental Examiner's Answer is deficient, because it was not signed by the Technology Center Group Director or his designee. Section 1207.05 Of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (Eighth Edition, Rev. 3, August 2005) states that “[e]very supplemental examiner's answer must be approved by a Technology Center (TC) Director or designee.” Correction is required.

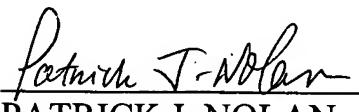
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner to:

- 1) vacate the Supplemental Examiner's Answer mailed April 19, 2007, and issue a Supplemental Examiner Answer that is in compliance with MPEP § 1207.02 acquiring the appropriate TC Group Director Approval; and

2) for such further action as may be deemed appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
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